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SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6, 1900.

## COLLAPSING.

The Wilcox boom seems to be suffering from a very serious depression. The memory of Wilcox's many failures in the past seems to have cropped up and to be considered by the Hawaiians very seriously. At first he seemed to have a clean sweep before him, but follower after follower has left him until he seems almost bare of leading Hawaiians in his forces. Upon this island some of his strongest supporters in the past have left him. One of them remarked the other day that Wilcox had led him into two serious scrapes, and that he would not be led into any more. He joined the Republicans and took an influential following along with him.

Certainly if the Hawaiian looks back upon Wilcox's past career, he cannot find much to pin faith to. He was educated at public expense and has failed to make any use of that education. In Europe he represented himself to be the son of the King, which he certainly was not. Since his return he has done nothing for the people he claims to work for. He has neither striven to elevate them, or to lead them to higher political or social ideals. In point of fact his career has been one of self seeking from first to last, and it will continue such to the end of the chapter.

Is there a political party of the past that he has affiliated with and then not betrayed? He has been anti-annexationist and has then signed the rolls of the annexation club. He has been royalist and has betrayed royalty. He calls himself Independent today and now that his followers are leaving him, he will as likely as not, get under the skirts of either the Democrats or the Republicans, if they will only promise him something. He aspires to lead, but the result has been that he has always led at the tail end. There is no wonder that upon careful thought the Hawaiian discredits Robert Wilcox. The wonder is that he ever gave ear to his claptrap phrases.

## PROSPECTS.

A good many people think that the Democratic party is winning the waning Wilcox vote. This is not so. A large number of the Wilcox men are coming over to the Republican side, and in spite of all the bluster now being made by the Democrats, the Republicans are steadily gaining ground.

The danger of the Territory lies in the scratching of the tickets. Each party has good men on its ticket. Each party has weak men on it. The weak men are more likely to pull votes than the strong ones. That is the strong men, the men who are likely to give us good legislation are not as popular with the unthinking voter as the weaker men, and the trouble will be in the removal of good names, and the keeping of poor names on both parties.

However, as a fact, it is very difficult to predicate how the election will go. Even the most astute politician must be in doubt. If the voters consider the best interests of the territory they will vote the Republican ticket, and they will certainly vote for the Republican candidate for delegate. To send any one else than Colonel Parker as delegate to congress would be suicidal. Sam Parker's qualifications for the position are overwhelmingly in his favor. We have need of every dollar that we can get towards our public improvements, and we want a man who is versed in affairs at Washington, and who has access to every one of weight in the capital.

Colonel Parker's personal relations with the President are of great value, and his knowledge of so many senators and representatives will be of the greatest value. While Prince David may be a very estimable young man, he has neither the knowledge of affairs nor the political weight of Colonel Parker.

## A SNAG.

As we go along we find more and more how our laws are inadequate to meet our changed conditions. And it is this very fact which makes it so important to have a legislature formed of men who will be capable of passing laws which we so sorely need. There never has been a time in the history of the Islands when they stood in need of able men than they do now, and with all our efforts we shall be lucky if we get a sufficient number to guide the legislative tendencies into the proper direction.

Elsewhere is pointed out a defect in the election law which is liable to have serious consequences in precincts which have a large number of voters. In one it is said there are 1,500, and it is shown that it will be physically impossible for the voters to record their votes during the hours that the polls are open.

The law reads "The Inspectors shall cause to be provided within the polling

apartment not more than three voting shelves at or in which voters may conveniently mark their ballots.

"Such shelves shall be so arranged that in marking ballots thereon, the voters may be screened from the observation of others."

Now a is clearly pointed out with only three compartments for marking ballots it will be impossible for 1,500 voters to mark their ballots during the polling hours. At the rate of one minute a piece there could only be 180 votes cast in an hour. And there is no doubt that it will take more than a minute per vote to get the ballots marked properly.

The question is whether further shelves can be erected, over and above those provided by law and whether a ballot marked upon such shelves would be valid, or whether the election would be invalidated if it was marked in any other place than one of the balloting compartments. In point of fact must a man enter the balloting compartment. It seems as if he must for Section 101 of the law says:

"No voter shall exhibit his ballot to any other person, nor shall any person look at or ask to see the contents of the ballot of any voter \* \* \* When a voter is in the balloting compartment for the purpose of marking his ballot, no other person shall \* \* \* be allowed to enter the compartment or to be in position from which he can observe how the voter is marking his ballot."

Again it is expressly stated in Section 99 that "upon receiving the ballot \* \* \* the voter receiving the same shall forthwith proceed into one of the compartments provided for the purpose and shall then and therein mark his ballot in the manner herein prescribed. He shall then refold the ballot or ballots in the same folds as it or they were in when handed to him by the inspectors. \* \* \* (and it or they) shall be immediately dropped into the proper box or boxes by such inspector."

From all this it does not appear as if by any method of reasoning there could be any way out of the difficulty. The essence of the law is the balloting compartment. The ballot must be marked in the balloting compartment and no where else. There can only be three such balloting compartments.

It certainly seems to be a very serious snag. Exactly why the law provided not more than three voting shelves is not clear, but it is clear that with only three voting shelves, 1,500 voters will not be able to cast their vote within the time limit.

The Japanese have a high collar party which represents the "tony" boys. Bob Wilcox's party may be entitled the "banjo party." With his nigger newspaper in Washington he will be able to give select concerts on the South side of Pennsylvania Avenue to a large and appreciative audience, but the "Rag Time" politician will not have the chance, his boom is busted.

The Kindergarten Association has been and is doing a very noble work in Honolulu. The movement has spread to Hilo, where there is a very flourishing kindergarten and very shortly there will be a kindergarten in Wailuku, Maui. The only objection which The Star has to the kindergarten work in Honolulu, is the separation of the nationalities. The nationalities should mingle from the very first.

Cremation is carried on extensively in Japan. There are nine crematories in and around Tokyo. During the month of July there were cremated 2,187 bodies according to the Japan Gazette. Of these 1,179 were females. Of all these only 89 were epidemic cases, and therefore obliged to be cremated. The Japanese seem to understand the value of cremation. When shall we show a like good sense.

General Baden-Powell, the hero of Mafeking and General De Wet, who has so distinguished himself on the Boer side, both obtained their early education at the same school. This was charter house, which figures so largely in Thackeray's works, Thackeray being himself an old Carthusian. It is curious that two men of such prominence on distinctly opposite sides should have been brought up in the same school. It further shows how the best of the Boers looked to Great Britain for their early training.

A penny-in-the-slot telephone has been opened for communications in Tokyo, says the Japan Mail. The terminals are Shimbashi and Ueno. Having obtained from the exchange an assurance that there is no obstruction, the applicant puts three nickels into the left hand slot, or a silver 19-sen piece into the right and one nickel into the left. But if it was in Honolulu, he might have to empty his whole purse before the "hello" girls would quit talking about the iniquities of Louisa and the merits of Maria and attend to business.

The telephone muddle continues, but the public will be benefited in the long run, and all the present ills be swept away. There is nothing like a storm for clearing the air. The telephone employees seem to think that they have a monopoly of their business, this they must be taught is not the case. On the other hand the company seems to have adopted a scale of wages which only attracts poor material, and the company will have to revise its pay rolls. The service has undoubtedly been most abominable, and we are lucky to see an end to our troubles even if it does involve a strike or two, and the departure of some of the old stand-bys.

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